

PEER MULTICULTURAL EDUCATORS



The Peer Multicultural Educators (PME) strive to promote equity, celebration of cultural and personal identity, and respectful and open-minded discourse in order to improve the social condition of the IMSA community.

Our Newsletter!

WRITTEN BY DISHA DUREJA

Hello everyone and welcome to PME's brand new newsletter! We hope to use this publication as a tool to communicate with the student body effectively and spread more awareness about diversity and equity.

"I would say our goals this year are to get our research projects back in full motion, fully prepare for PME convention and MLK Assembly, have a successful first cross-cultural show."

- Manasvi Thumu and Samantha Taylor, PME Co Liaisons

February Recap:

COMPLEX IDENTITIES GA

PME hosted a GA talking about what Complex Identities are had an activity where students could tie-dye items of clothing based off of prompts about complex identities. We also had a discussion answering questions about conflicts between identities.

BLACK HISTORY READ IN IRC X BSU X PME

In a collaborative effort, PME participated in a read in celebrating Black History Month. Poetry and short stories were read by Black authors. Christopher Whitehead was the guest speaker, reading his own poetry.

Equity and
Repopulation



[See more on page 3](#)

New Projects and Research

RESEARCH

Recently, PME research teams held our focus groups for this year's research projects; with over a dozen participants and four different topics, our next step is to work on data analysis and develop proposals for new PME initiatives to address the issues we've identified.

Quote of the Month

**" Where there is a woman,
there is magic."**

- NTOZAKE SHANGE

Is This A Microaggression?

Aren't you Hindu? How do you not know your chakras?

- Anonymous

Yes, this is sadly a microaggression. The person asking these questions is essentially implying two statements: if you are South Asian and or Indian you must be Hindu, and if you are Hindu you must know everything about the religion, including what chakras are.

Both of these ideas are false, the former being a stereotype perpetuated by the portrayal of South Asians in media. South Asia is a vast and diverse region of the world, home to several religions, not just Hinduism. The second statement disregards the diversity within the large religion of Hinduism. Not every Hindu practices Hinduism the same way and there are many denominations within the religion. Overall, I am sorry someone said this to you and I would consider explaining to the person why what they said was hurtful if you are comfortable with doing so and if it would help you feel better.

Do YOU wanna
know if an
experience you
had was a
microaggression?

**Ask our new PME
Submission Box!**



Repopulation and Equity On/Off Campus

A MESSAGE FROM MANASVI THUMI, PME CO-LIASON

Repopulation is upon us. We all have the opportunity to go on campus if you opted into the cohorts. But, what will campus life look like? If you've been able to take a look at the repopulation plan document: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/8a26123b-39d4-4292-ba4b-d22124e67a7b>, you already know all of the details. If you haven't read it, here's some of the basic information. Classes are going to be a mixture of hybrid and remote depending on how people in your class are coming back to IMSA and how many people are in your class in general. For hybrid classes, Swivl is being used to coordinate in-person and remote learning. Residence life is going to look a little different. For one, you'll only be able to open up your own wing because you'll only be able to communicate and interact with your own pod of people in your wing. The residence halls will be open all day in order to ensure students aren't spending too much time in the main building and are able to return back to their rooms after class. In terms of after-school activities, all student organizations will have to meet remotely for GAs and activities as well as co-curriculars, so that will still be similar to what we have now. Leaving campus will also be a more formal process, during the three-week cohorts, unless you have an emergency, you most likely won't be approved to leave campus. And then lastly, while specific health guidelines are located on page 11 of the plan, here are some important reminders: wash your hands, wear your masks, stay six feet apart, and hopefully we all can enjoy a wonderful time in each of the cohorts!

Now, onto more diversity and equity-related endeavors. An interesting development if you're not yet aware, 1507 is going to transition to a co-ed hall for the two cohorts. This is mainly happening because 1503 has shut down, we might be able to look forward to potentially having another co-ed hall in the future. Also, the repopulation plan community truly used a lens of equity in order to create the plan, especially regarding instruction. Teachers and administrators moving forwards are going to work towards utilizing an individualized teaching plan rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. Teachers are going to try to facilitate learning experiences to recognize the intersection of different parts of students' identities. Finally, academic, medical, and disability needs will be met remotely or in-person by IMSA staff. If you do have any questions or concerns about repopulation or more specifically about diversity and equity, feel free to reach out to any of our board members and if we can't answer, we'll put you in touch with someone who does!